

# Destination 2040

## Alternative Action Approaches

*Instruction: Please read the various approaches and circle the number of any approach that you think particularly useful or worthwhile to pursue.*

### ACL 1 – HUMAN NEEDS

#### **I. Adequate, Safe, Affordable Housing**

1. Provide protection and support for those not competent to manage their own finances.
2. Create a coordinated system of outreach, education, life skills training, and support for residents of low-income housing.
3. As people age, increase housing opportunities and support for them to remain in their homes as long as possible.
4. Bring all substandard housing up to code.
5. Implement a development system or process to ensure that a minimum supply of affordably priced housing is constructed to meet the community's needs.

#### **II. Education**

1. Develop incentive programs and other forms of support to ensure that finances are not a barrier to postsecondary education.
2. Develop a coordinated system to close the education gap that occurs in pre-K children, with emphasis on making quality pre-school programming accessible for those most at risk.
3. Develop and promote opportunities for residents to participate in a continuing variety of educational activities, to instill the value of life-long learning.
4. Assure that public school students are prepared for postsecondary education.
5. Close the public school achievement gap for at-risk and lower-income students.
6. Provide affordable childcare for low-income working parents, and those trying to further their education.

### III. Natural Resources

1. Ensure that all neighborhoods have some open public green space available.
2. Make Lexington a leader in the movement to reduce greenhouse gases and employ sustainable choices in housing, transportation, and other community activities.
3. Maximize the community's recycling efforts by requiring that recycling be provided by all waste removal services, and moving toward mandated resident and business recycling.
4. Ensure that an adequate supply of fresh local food is grown that is capable of sustaining the community, and make it readily available in the marketplace.
5. Create a network of school and community gardens.

### IV. Health

1. Make affordable basic preventive health care accessible to all residents, including all children.
2. Develop and promote a coordinated approach to get people to eat a healthy diet and to exercise regularly.
3. Provide educational and motivational initiatives, along with the needed supporting public infrastructure or opportunities, to focus residents on healthy living habits and to bring about a knowledgeable, healthier citizenry.
4. Encourage employers to pay semi-skilled and skilled workers wages in accordance with recognized "living wage" calculations for this geographic area, reasonable to meet life's basic needs.

# ACL 2 – PHYSICAL GROWTH

## **I. Transportation Alternatives**

1. Develop more effective public transportation alternatives for commuter travel, including park and ride systems, light rail / monorail, and a restructuring of the LexTran system.
2. Enter regional transportation agreements with Versailles / Woodford County and Winchester / Clark County to effect road improvements and scenic protections along the US 60 corridor, similar to the Paris Pike project for US 27/68.
3. Pursue development of a community / regional “Electro-Net” for implementation of an electric bike / plug-in car system.
4. Follow through on LFUCG bike trails capital improvement plan, including a focus on university campuses (particularly UK), a rural route system, and a bike rental system to help fund trails maintenance and improvements.
5. Complete major new transportation connections, such as the I-75 to US 27 Connector Project and the Bluegrass Parkway to I-64 Connector Project.
6. Implement HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) commuter lanes on the major arterials, and enforce properly.

## **II. Public Facilities (Parks, Schools, Libraries, Water Body)**

1. Propose a dedicated new public revenue stream for parks and trails, to better equip / maintain the current parks system and to complete tangible trail linkages between parks.
2. Plan ahead for predictable public infrastructure / facilities that will need to be redeveloped or increase capacity to accommodate higher population and dwelling unit density.
3. Construct a new civic arena to replace Rupp Arena.
4. Build an amphitheater at Jacobson Park large enough to accommodate major community events / gatherings.
5. Institute a weekly car-free road day during warm weather months (e.g. Sunday afternoon from 2-6), to close a significant portion of a major road to vehicular traffic, and make available for bike / pedestrian recreational use only.

### III. Land Use Decisions

1. Move toward using less land for housing by developing denser, smaller, more vertical residential housing, as opposed to the typical style of current residential development.
2. Revise local planning regulations and building codes to promote or require an ever-increasing level of energy efficient, sustainable development and buildings. (such as LEED certified buildings) to reduce carbon emissions / greenhouse gases.
3. Proactive planning system that will pre-identify and firmly establish the location of all public infrastructure needs, including street routes, sewer and utility routes, parks, school sites, etc. in advance of development
4. Devise a more open and creative planning system for high activity areas of town that is based on clearly stated community goals for a defined area and a broad mixture of permissible development options, rather than the current restrictive system of parcel-by-parcel zoning.
5. Continue to protect the rural landscape / agricultural industry through use of the urban service boundary concept, PDR program, and other needed protections. Seek ways to limit the amount of conflict that occurs when considering a boundary expansion, such as narrowing down areas for consideration.
6. Support the practice of regional cooperation and planning, by starting on specific major needed near-term projects and growing one-on-one relationships with other communities as progress is achieved (Paris Pike example).

### IV. Infrastructure, Roads, Utilities

1. Revise and utilize LFUCG development / engineering standards for infrastructure to provide for creativity and flexibility – creative infrastructure solutions allowed.
2. LFUCG should take full control of all roads inside New Circle Rd. from the state, and should also seek to expand AM /PM reversible lanes on major arterial commuter routes (such as exists on Nicholasville Rd).
3. Regarding street planning, revise planning regulations to provide for “Complete streets” design concept (which ensures cooperative sharing by autos, bikes, and pedestrians); and be sure to preserve existing street capacities by making use of frontage / backage access roads, and providing adequate “pull-off” space for disabled vehicles.
4. Develop regulations for public facilities that require all public infrastructure to be adequately maintained, once built or repaired; that calculations to assure available capacity are made in advance of adding new development to existing systems, and burying utilities underground at every opportunity.
5. If opportunity arises in the future, pursue city-owned public utilities (non-condemnation purchase option).
6. Develop a better methodology for coordination of utility construction in the rights-of-way, when major projects are being done. For example, in conjunction with major upcoming sewer construction projects, take advantage of all opportunities to do other public infrastructure work needed while the area is disturbed.

# ACL 3 – ECONOMIC EXPANSION

## I. Business and Job Expansion: Energy, Synergy, and Pro-activity

*(applied to recruiting businesses from elsewhere, growing our existing businesses, and starting new businesses right here with our own innovative people and ideas.)*

1. Recognize and expand UK's research and development as the primary driver for business and job expansion in the community.
2. Restructure the existing tax structure to encourage business development and ensure more local control over tax revenues.
3. Aim business and job expansion efforts at both high-wage skills-based businesses (examples: technical, manufacturing, service) and high-income knowledge-based businesses (examples: professional, technological, scientific, engineering).
4. Concentrate efforts on connecting new and existing businesses to the financial resources (capital) and business relationships (networks) needed for success.

## II. Education and Workforce Development as Economic and Cultural Engines

*(including Preschool – 12th grade schooling, higher education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and entrepreneur development)*

1. Offer free college scholarships to students who commit to finish school here and stay for a specific time commitment.
2. Develop permanent school-based staff positions dedicated to linking students (from preschool to college levels) with both skilled trades and knowledge-based companies; examples of linking approaches include job shadowing and mentoring.
3. Honor "Hometown Heroes" – LOTS of them – for their work and their civic involvement; for example, get the Lexington Herald-Leader to run a full page of photos of all Little League coaches, with their work titles, to honor all types of vocations / professions.
4. Make Fayette County Public Schools the best. Set and reach a goal for Fayette County Public Schools to be ranked in the top tier of public school systems nationally.
5. Build a rich package of incentives to attract the best Preschool-12th Grade teachers in the nation; include financial incentives for excellent teaching, and many community benefits (example: free family pool passes or Kroger discounts like those offered to senior citizens).
6. Expand financial incentives to businesses that provide opportunities to their workers to receive training and become more highly skilled, allowing them to promote upward and advance through the work force.

### III. Enjoyment, Quality of Life, Community Building

1. Invest in an attractive environment for people who will build and sustain both skilled trades and white collar businesses by reducing the cost of launching arts, music, and entertainment businesses that enhance Quality of Life.
2. Attract and keep baby-boomer retirees in the community by ensuring a strong array of core services (such as health care, transportation) and attractive amenities (entertainment and housing that appeal to their wants and needs).
3. Invest in all initiatives that improve recognized and nationally assessed Quality of Life factors, including improved options for walking and biking, ample inventive and traditional housing options, and an abundant entertainment array with many appealing options for each key demographic group.
4. Make it more compelling and easier to do business in Lexington-Fayette County; for example, tell our community's positive story more powerfully and successfully; streamline all assistance for growing businesses and jobs, and assist businesses interested in promising but challenging locations.

### IV. Regional Development

1. Form an enduring, diverse, non-partisan top-level stakeholder entity for the region that has common purpose and clout. Its purpose is to tie together business expansion, quality of life, and education/workforce training to accelerate sound economic expansion across the long-term future. Build the membership in this public-private group from multiple bodies, including governments, chambers of commerce, schools, businesses, young people, higher education, the medical community (including the UK Medical Center) and possibly members from other successful regions such as northern Kentucky and Greater Louisville.
2. Protect and build upon the region's signature equine industry and other aspects of agriculture such as animal research and health, field crops, produce, and other livestock.

# ACL 4 – CULTURAL CREATIVITY

## **I. Attraction of Tourism**

1. Create an arts / entertainment district that reflects our local heritage; (for example, Bourbon District, Town Branch trail, East End, etc.)
2. Pursue a centralized way to promote regional heritage tourism, such as Bluegrass Festivals; Bourbon Trail; etc.
3. Provide for a Trolley system to facilitate movement and to connect cultural entertainment districts.
4. Develop and implement new marketing signage for the region that includes Horse Capital brand, cultural activities, entertainment districts, performing arts venues, and etc.

## **II. Performing Arts Facilities**

1. Provide for a public 2500 – 3500 seat performing arts center, to help keep ticket prices affordable when attracting higher caliber acts.
2. Change mandate of Opera House to include more national acts, while not sacrificing availability for local groups.
3. Provide the opportunity for more outdoor performances by making greater, more frequent use of city and neighborhood parks.
4. Provide for a world-class rehearsal and production space for performing arts, to increase revenue.
5. Develop a centralized ticket distribution system to allow for greater ease of purchasing tickets to various arts and performance venues, and promote discounts for students / young people.

### III. Development of Arts/Entertainment District

1. Broaden the focus of the LFUCG office of economic development to include creative industry and arts development (a one-stop shop that coordinates economic development for the arts, such as incentives for renovation of buildings, loan guarantee programs, and assistance to entrepreneurs seeking to start arts-oriented facilities).
2. When developing an arts and entertainment district, incorporate available water-ways / water features into the development, such as a walk-way along Town Branch with places to sit and eat and enjoy water features.
3. Develop “brands” for various entertainment districts or segments of districts. For instance, a unique brand / name for areas based on various types of music, geographic identity, age of patrons, etc.

### IV. Diverse Cultural Offerings

1. Develop a unique historical/cultural museum that makes use of interactive technology, partners with other regional museums such as KY Artisan Center, Shakertown, Headley Whitney, has something relevant for all ages, and is attractive to both locals and tourists. Locate in the old Fayette County Courthouse Building.
2. Establish a film commission to promote Lexington – Fayette County and the Bluegrass region to the movie industry.
3. Make music and arts experiential education available and accessible to all children, perhaps a mandatory element of school requirements (as for other required subjects).
4. Pursue major advances in the private and public funding sources that are needed to more consistently and adequately support a growing arts / cultural climate, to help elevate the community to a higher, more competitive level.